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Letter dated 18 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my pleasure to introduce an easy-to-read English version of the draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that was prepared in January 2004 by a working group of the Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities.

The New Zealand Government prepared the easy-to-read English version to ensure access to consultations on the draft Convention for New Zealanders with lower reading comprehension skills, including persons with intellectual disabilities.

While this easy-to-read English version follows as closely as possible the Working Group's draft, it is not possible to fully translate all legal terms into plain language. We hope, however, that the plainer language version will be a useful tool to assist persons with disabilities who have difficulty reading complex material to understand the issues covered in the draft Convention. We also hope this will also allow access for English speaking persons with disabilities in other countries to the processes surrounding the development of an international convention on their human rights.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter as a document of the Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities and post the easy-to-read English version of the draft Convention on the United Nations Enable web site (see http://iseek.un.org/frame.asp?url=http://intranet.un.org>.

(*Signed*) Don **MacKay**

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